



Minutes of the meeting of the **Overview & Scrutiny Committee** held in Committee Rooms, East Pallant House on Tuesday 24 September 2024 at 2.00 pm

**Members Present:** Chair D Johnson (Chair), Cllr B Burkhart (Deputy Chair), Cllr S Boulcott, Cllr J Brookes-Harmer, Cllr E Newbery, Cllr H Potter and Cllr S Quail

**Members not present:** Mr C Hastain, Mr C Todhunter and Mr J Vivian

**In attendance by invitation:**

**Officers present:** Mr A Alempour (Democratic Services Officer), Mr A Buckley (Corporate Improvement and Facilities Manager), Ms P Bushby (Divisional Manager for Communities and Customer Services), Mr D Cooper (Divisional Manager Financial Services), Mrs L Rudziak (Director of Housing and Communities) and Mrs E Thomas (Wellbeing Manager)

## 1 **Chairman's Announcements**

Apologies were received from Cllr Vivian and Cllr Todhunter.

## 2 **Minutes**

### **RESOLVED:**

To approve the minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 16 January 2024.

## 3 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

## 4 **Declarations of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

## 5 **Public Question Time**

No public questions were received.

6 **Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2023-2024**

**RESOLVED:**

The Committee noted the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report for 2023-2024.

7 **Corporate Plan Review - Terms of Reference, Scoping of Work and Plan**

Mr Buckley presented the item and briefed Members on the Corporate Plan Review and Terms of Reference.

**RESOLVED:**

The Committee noted the Corporate Plan Review – Terms of Reference, Scoping of Work and Plan and appointed the following Members to the Corporate Plan Review Task and Finish Group:

- Chair Donna Johnson
- Cllr Brett Burkhart
- Cllr Steve Boulcott

8 **Annual Budget Scrutiny Group - Terms of Reference and Scoping**

Mr Cooper presented the item and briefed Members on the Annual Budget Scrutiny Group's objectives and Terms of Reference.

**RESOLVED:**

The Committee noted the Annual Budget Scrutiny Group – Terms of Reference and Scoping and appointed the following Members to the Annual Budget Scrutiny Group:

- Cllr Eleanora Newbery
- Cllr Joseph Brookes-Harmer
- Chair Donna Johnson

9 **Social Prescribing Evaluation Report for 2023/24**

Mrs Thomas presented the item and briefed Members on the report's objectives and the content included. The report outlines the outcomes achieved and the progress made in the 2023-24 year.

Mrs Thomas advised Members that the Social Prescribing service provides one to one support to young people and adults. The service can assist in varying areas such as mental health, social isolation, housing, money management and employment. In addition to this, the service can also help refer clients to other services which can provide additional support. The objective is to alleviate demand on general practitioners for cases which are not medical in nature.

During the 2022/23 year, the service expanded and recruited a Young Persons Social prescriber. Since then, the service has been able to accommodate an increase in referrals and has continued to provide valuable support to clients. Further information regarding this increase can be found in the evaluation report. Mrs Thomas noted that the service has now developed stronger links and communications with different contacts, both inside and outside of the Council. This has resulted in a much more efficient referral process for the client. Improvements are also being made to data collection, which will provide more detailed information for future reports.

Mrs Thomas stated that the Social Prescribing service works particularly closely with the Housing Department, the "Supporting You" team and the Benefits Department. Mrs Thomas commended these teams for the support they provide.

The service has experienced some challenges over the last year, funding and schedule changes within the staff rota have led to some changes in capacity. However, considering these factors, the service continues to provide a solid level of service.

Cllr Quail asked whether the service has had to reduce adult provision at the expense of youth provision and what steps the team would take to improve its service.

Mrs Thomas confirmed that the youth provision had not been reduced. The adult provision had been reduced slightly by approximately 1.5 days per week.

With regards to improving the service, having a full time Social Prescriber in each practice would be an ideal improvement, however, it's important for the service to manage its limited resources. Whilst demand is substantial, the team have achieved some remarkable outcomes with the resources at their disposal.

Cllr Quail asked whether there is any overlap between the support provided by the Social Prescribing team and other organisations who may offer a similar type of service.

Mrs Thomas confirmed that there are many similar programmes, however the Social Prescribing service is unique in the volume of time spent with clients. Clients attend six to twelve sessions, with each session lasting one hour. Prescribers have also helped refer and accompany clients to creative programmes and classes, such as the Pallant House Gallery. This level of support can help develop the client's confidence and to help make connections.

Cllr Potter noted the information included in the report and was pleased by the work conducted by the service.

Cllr Potter asked if Officers are in contact with registered housing providers, such as Hyde.

Mrs Thomas confirmed that the team have strong communications with Hyde. The Council and Hyde have worked together in several instances to successfully resolve different projects.

Cllr Burkhart noted that the report contains information on accessing these services and referrals. Cllr Burkhart asked whether the Council could make referrals where necessary.

Mrs Thomas advised that this is possible with the client's consent, the Council's website contains the referral process and form, alongside further information.

The Chair asked how long it would take for a client to be seen, following the point of referral.

Mrs Thomas stated that the service is currently delivering fast turnaround times. Clients are more likely to engage with the service when they've been called soon after the referral has been made. The prescribers will call the client within several working days of the referral. Appointments can then be made for the following week.

Cllr Newbery asked for further information on where referrals for young people are being sent from.

Mrs Thomas advised that referrals are coming from varied sources, some are being made via the adult service, the wellbeing team and via the traditional route by general practitioner. Self-referrals are quite common and are statistically more successful than other referrals. Local schools and Chichester College have also made referrals where necessary.

The Chair acknowledged that the non-clinical approach and multi-disciplinary support provided by the Social Prescribing service is incredibly valuable. The service plays an important role in introducing and referring the relevant provisions. The Chair thanked the Officers for their hard work and contributions.

**RESOLVED:**

The Committee noted the progress and outcomes to date for the Social Prescribing service.

10 **Late Items**

There were no late items.

11 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

There were no restricted items for consideration.

The meeting ended at 2.37 pm

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CHAIRMAN

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Date: